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**TO:**

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**FROM:**

**Controlling DoD Organization. Assistant  
Chief of Staff for Force Development  
[Army], Washington, DC 20310.**

**AUTHORITY**

**GDS, DoD 5200.1-R; AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr  
1980**

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(18)

OACSFOR

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (13 Dec 67) FOR OT-RD-670592

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20310

(19)

19 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, [redacted] 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery, [redacted]

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

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DOD TRADOC 100-31 Dec 67 Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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Commanding Officers  
    5th Battalion, 42d Artillery  
    6th Battalion, 84th Artillery  
    6th Battalion, 33d Artillery  
    7th Battalion, 8th Artillery  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 7TH BATTALION 8TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96370

AWGAO-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

THRU: Commanding Officer  
5th Artillery Group  
APO 96376

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
AFO 96266

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHOC-DH  
AIO 96375

Commander in Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development  
Department of the Army  
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA  
Washington, D.C. 20310

**SECTION I**

**SIGNIFICANT HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT ACTIVITIES**

**1. Administration and Personnel.**

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Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 18 years  
DOD DIR 5200.10

FOR OFFICER FILE  
670592

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AVGAC-QD

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

a. On 10 November 1966, the 7th Battalion 8th Artillery received alert notification for shipment to RVN. Planning for a 4th quarters FY 67 deployment commenced immediately with submission of a personnel requisition for 21 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, and 343 EM. The battalion at this time had a strength of approximately 400 Officers and EM of whom about 50% were deployable. Upon return from Christmas leaves, the non-deployable personnel were transferred out with the exception of 17 key NCO's who were retained in a TDY status to be released as qualified replacements arrived. On 27 February 1967 the battalion commenced ICTP with essentially all of its personnel in grades E-1 through E-3 and approximately 50% of the authorized E-5 through E-6. On our P.D., 3 June 1967, the battalion was only 1 Officer and 4 EM short of its authorized assigned strength, with 1 Warrant Officer and 7 EM to be administratively delayed to rejoin the unit in RVN at a later date.

b. On 20 May 1967, the general cargo and vehicles were shipped from Beaumont, Texas, accompanied by 1 Warrant Officer and 3 EM, and arrived in Saigon Port 28 June 1967.

c. On 8 June 1967, the main body consisting of 17 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, and 502 EM departed by air for Oakland, California, departed Oakland on 9 June 1967 aboard the USNS Walker, and arrived in RVN on 28 June 1967.

d. The advance party of 8 Officers, 1 Warrant Officer, and 16 EM departed Tinker AFB by C141 on 19 June 1967 and arrived in RVN on 21 June 1967.

e. Upon arrival in RVN the 7th Battalion 8th Artillery, assigned to the 54th Artillery Group, was moved into a staging area at Camp Martin Cox by its sponsoring unit, the 7th Battalion 9th Artillery.

f. Although perhaps plagued with initial NCO shortages and other problems not unique to this battalion, the unit was able to complete its reorganization, deployment, and staging in RVN without encountering serious difficulty. This was for the most part due to the excellent support rendered by the 1st FA Brigade, III Corps Artillery, and Post Support personnel at Fort Sill and by the outstanding sponsorship of the 7th Bn 9th Arty in RVN.

g. Personnel strength of the command on 31 July 1967 was:

UNIT	TOE AUTH			AS. IGENA		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
Headquarters Battery	15	1	136	12	1	134
Battery A	3	0	110	4	0	108

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AVCAO-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

	TOE AUTH			ASSIGNED		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Battery B	3	0	110	4	0	108
Battery C	3	0	110	4	0	109
Service Battery	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>72</u>
Totals	27	4	534	26	4	531

h. Critical Shortages: One (1) Officer, Authorized Rank:  
Captain, MOS: 1193.

i. Personnel changes during this quarter include:

<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	(Gains)	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	(Losses)
1	0	92		1	0	119	

j. Casualties: None

k. Five Army Commendation Medals for merit were presented  
during the quarter.

l. Infusion: In the month of July 1967, 93 EM of this  
unit with DEROS of November 1967 or later were infused with personnel  
of the 1st Bn, 83d Arty having DEROS in the months of September and  
October 1967.

m. No R&R quotas were received by this unit in the report period.

n. The Battalion Mail Clerk picks up from and delivers mail for the  
entire battalion to APO 96370. Subsequent deliveries are made to all out-  
lying batteries.

o. Judicial and non-judicial actions by unit for the quarter include:

	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>	<u>SUMMARY COURT</u>	<u>SPECIAL COURT</u>
Headquarters Battery	7	0	0
Battery A	3	0	0
Battery B	7	0	0
Battery C	2	0	0
Service Battery	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	19	0	0

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6

AVCAU-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CINCPER-63

p. Mortable accidents for the quarter included three vehicle  
and two personnel accidents.

q. The morale of the command is outstanding due primarily to  
the men's occupation with the problems of unpacking, becoming operational,  
and setting up base camps.

r. Religious services, both Protestant and Catholic, are made  
available to each battery on a regular weekly basis.

s. Throughout the battalion, personal hygiene, prophylactic,  
and prevention of malaria have been stressed by the Battery Commanders,  
and Battalion Surgeon. There have been no unforeseen problems in this  
area to date.

## 2. Intelligence.

a. On 20 July 1967, this battalion assumed the responsibility  
for the Visual Reconnaissance Fan centered on BM LUC, Battery A location.

## 3. Training.

a. On 10 November 1966, this battalion received alert notification  
for shipment to RVN.

b. Training was started as directed using both 8" and 175mm  
equipment. After completion of 4 weeks of composite training, the unit was  
notified to prepare the 175mm guns for turn-in, to complete the training  
as a standard 8" SP battalion, and to deploy in this configuration. The  
first 4 weeks of training were further complicated by serious gasoline  
restrictions imposed during one week due to budgetary limitations, and by  
constant difficulties experienced in securing range clearances which would  
allow the firing of both weapons systems. During this period, the unit  
was kept in a constant state of flux, not knowing from week to week what  
type of ammunition to draw nor whether to submit range requests optimizing  
175mm or 8" firing. Despite the problems encountered, the 175's were  
turned in expeditiously and Battery ATT's were conducted with twelve (12)  
8" weapons during the 5th week of training. The final 3 weeks of training  
were devoted to training directed towards the standard 8" Army / TT. No  
serious problems were encountered during this phase of training, and the  
battalion ORT was successfully completed on 21 - 22 April 1967.

## 4. Operations.

a. Normal operations, consistent with the battalion mission,  
were conducted during the reporting period.

b. The first round fired in RVN was fired by Battery C on 7 July  
1967, the Battalion Organization Day.

c. On 7 July 1967, battery C became operational at their desig-  
nated firing position at BM LUC.

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12 August 1967

AVCMDR-C  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CS.R-65

d. On 9 July 1967, battery B was detached and proceeded to vicinity of GI/ R.Y to fire in support of Operation "PADDINTUV", a joint operation conducted by the 9th Inf Div, 11th ACM, Australian, and ARV Forces. This mission terminated on 16 July 1967.

e. On 16 July 1967, one battery was deployed to a position in the vicinity of BIN HOU with the mission of General Support reinforcing the 1st Inf Div Arty with priority of fires to DONG MAI Sector. On 28 July 1967 an additional battery plus an operational control element from battalion headquarters moved to the same location and assumed the same mission.

f. On 31 July 1967, Battery I deployed its 8" platoon from the position at BIN LUC to a firing position within the 9th Inf Div base Camp at Dong TAM.

g. The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition listed below:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>M101A1 105mm</u>	<u>8"</u>	<u>175mm</u>
Battery I	436	1219	542	
Battery B	1098	2344	686	
Battery C	1363	1065	1004	

5. Logistics.

a. This battalion was alerted for deployment on 10 November 1966. Upon receiving the 4th US Army Logistical Letter which contained logistical instructions for deployments to U.S. RPM, an intensified program was initiated to implement this reference and all other logistical references so as to insure that this battalion would attain the optimum equipment status prior to deployment. Shortly after being alerted, all outstanding requisitions were cancelled and resubmitted on an O2 priority. Though some of our major items, such as meteorological equipment didn't arrive until shortly before the FAD, no significant problems were encountered. All sets of the post were made available to us for the conduct of the IOTB. Close coordination was maintained with C4 and the various support agencies from the time of alert to the FAD. Except for a few items which were deferred for in-country issue, the remainder of our TO&E shortages were laterally transferred to this battalion approximately 10 days prior to the FAD. The cooperation of higher headquarters as well as the many support agencies was outstanding.

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6

AVGAO-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

b. A battalion movement officer was appointed. This officer was responsible for attending the POM briefings, and for establishing liaison with Post Transportation, Field Maintenance, and Post Engineers which was necessary in order to prepare an SOP for the orderly inspection and preparation of equipment and personnel for shipment to the deployment area. This SOP included the following:

(1) A list of all TOE and critical expendables by amount and the recommended manner of shipment such as general cargo, red TAT, and yellow TAT (advance and main body).

(2) POM inspection procedures which established guide procedures, layout of equipment and listed sequence of events.

(3) Packing and crating procedures. Details including the ordering of inserts, pallets, and various packing boxes and papers. Procedures for borrowing scales, forklifts, and banding machines with wire were included. Package numbers were assigned and instructions for the proper stenciling of containers and preparation of packing lists were included.

c. A maintenance project officer was appointed to coordinate the POM inspection. Items needing repair were immediately repaired and unserviceable items were replaced from post assets.

d. Escorts for the general cargo and WABTOC package were placed on TDY and accompanied the equipment to destination. The escorts were members of this battalion. The escorts to accompany the WABTOC ship also checked the red TAT at the west coast where it arrived approximately a week prior to the WABTOC vessel's departure.

6. Aviation.

a. This battalion has no organic aircraft. Both rotary and fixed wing support are provided by the 54th Artillery Group on a mission basis.

7. Civic Action.

a. No civic action projects have been initiated as yet with the exception of MEDCAP in conjunction with the 7th Bn 9th Arty.

8. Psychological Warfare.

a. A small number of leaflets have been dropped by AO's in conjunction with scheduled VR's.

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AVCAO-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

9. Communications.

a. VHF communications were scheduled for installation between XUAN LOC and BEARCAT, BEARCAT and BEN LUC, and BEARCAT and DONG TAM on 1 July 1967. As of end of the reporting period, the BEARCAT VHF Channel is the only one installed. This channel was installed on 27 July 1967.

SECTION II  
Part I, Observations

1. Personnel and Administration. None

2. Intelligence.

a. Item: Map Issue.

(1) Discussion: Maps, 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 were ordered on a priority requisition upon arrival of the advance party in RVN. The 1:50,000 maps were received but issue has not been effected on the 1:250,000 map sheets.

(2) Observations: Map sheets 1:250,000 are needed for AO, for Operations Situation, VR, and Air Corridor Maps.

3. Training and Organization.

a. Item: Training and Organization.

(1) Discussion: On 10 November 1966, this unit received alert notification for shipment to RVN. Prior to commencing the ICTP on 25 February, information was received that the unit would deploy with each battery in a composite (2-175mm, 2-8" how) posture. After 4 weeks of training, the unit was notified to turn in the 175mm guns and complete the training as a standard 8" SP battalion and to deploy in this configuration. The unit deployed to RVN as directed and upon its arrival, was notified to reassume a composite configuration.

(2) Observation: Heavy Artillery units scheduled to be configured as composite units upon arrival in RVN should be afforded the opportunity to schedule and complete the full spectrum of pre-deployment training as a composite unit.

4. Operations: None

5. Logistics.

a. Item: Vehicles becoming amber as a result of the Intensified Combat Training Program.

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AVGAO-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

(1) Discussion: Many of the vehicles and weapons were scheduled to become amber prior to or shortly after shipment due to age or mileage.

(2) Observation: Vehicles and weapons in this category were identified and exchanged for green equipment prior to ERD.

b. Item: Request for special letters of authority on equipment required in deployment area.

(1) Discussion: The battalion staff spent many hours preparing these letters, most of which were disapproved.

(2) Observations: Correspondence and information received from units in Vietnam recommended bringing many items for which no authorization existed. An approved list of items, if available, would have prevented the expenditure of useless efforts attempting to obtain equipment above TOE authorization.

6. Aviation.

a. Item: Shortage of Command and Control Aircraft.

(1) Discussion: A minimum of one aircraft each day for one-half of the day is required for this unit to effectively exercise command and control over assigned batteries.

(2) Observation: This unit has had assigned batteries deployed simultaneously in four different locations spread over a distance in excess of 50 miles. Due to the time and danger involved in attempting to reach them by road, it is mandatory that all liaison be effected using aerial transportation. At this time, due to apparent shortages of allocated aircraft within the group, effective and timely command and control cannot always be extended to the outlying batteries of the battalion.

SECTION II  
Part II, Recommendations

1. Personnel and administration. None

2. Intelligence.

a. The basic load of map sheets should be issued to units prior to deployment to RVN, so as to enable key personnel to become familiar with the maps and key terrain features of their programmed areas of operation.

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AVGAC-CO

12 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operations Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

3. Training and Organization.

a. Heavy Artillery units scheduled to be employed as a composite unit upon arrival in RVN should be notified of this fact at the time they receive alert notification. This would allow the unit to schedule the full spectrum of training and to deploy as a composite unit, thus being more proficient and combat ready upon arrival in RVN.

4. Operations: None.

5. Logistics.

a. Reference: Section II, Part I, Paragraph 5b. Recommend that a study be made to determine what items of equipment are common to and required by all units deploying to Vietnam, and that blanket authority be granted to eligible units to request such equipment prior to deployment.

6. Aviation.

a. Reference: Section II, Part I, paragraph 6a. Recommend that organic aircraft be assigned to each battalion of the 54th Artillery Group in order to permit effective execution of command and control of batteries forced to operate independently over large areas.

s/ William S. Price  
t/ WILLIAM S. PRICE  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

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13

VGA-C (1 Aug 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,  
Reports Control Symbol CGFOR-C (VIC) WAITOR

HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376 17 August 1967

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AFVFB-PAC  
APO 96266

Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: VHGC-DH,  
APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: CICP-CT,  
APO 96558

CC: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, ATTN: ACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

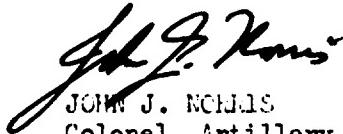
1. (U) The Operation Report from the 7th Bn, 8th Artillery is con-  
sidered adequate.

2. (C) Reference Section II Part I paragraph 2a, Map Issue. The  
1:250,000 map sheets are not considered adequate for artillery use by the  
54th Artillery Group.

3. (C) Reference Section II Part I paragraph 3a, Training and Organ-  
ization. The 54th Artillery Group strongly concurs. Units deploying to  
VN should be allowed to train in the configuration in which they will be  
deployed.

4. (C) Reference Section II Part I paragraph 6a, Shortage of Aircraft.  
The 54th Artillery Group strongly concurs with the need for additional air-  
craft.

5. (U) Reference Section II Part II. The 54th Artillery Group con-  
curs with all recommendations of the 7th Bn, 8th Artillery.

  
JOHN J. NICHOLS  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

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DOD DIR 5200.10

10

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HIST

14

AVFB-FAC (12 Aug 67) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV Arty, APO 96266 28 AUG 1967

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266

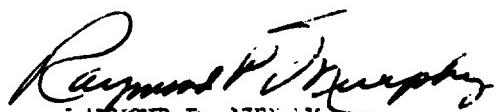
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN:  
AVNGC-DN, APO 96307

Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN:  
GPOP-CT, APO 96550

CC: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department  
of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery (MA1LTC) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

2. (U) Concur with paragraphs 2a, 3a, 5a, and 6a, Section II, Part II.

  
RAYMOND P. MURPHY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

15  
AVFBC-H (12 Aug 67) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Hq 7th Battalion, 8th  
Artillery, 31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

DA, Hq II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 7 SEP 1967

THRU: Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVIIGC-DH, APO 96375

Commander in Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: CINCPAC-MT, APO 96552

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Dept of the Army,  
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This headquarters concurs with the comments and recommendations  
in the basic report and 1st and 2d indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
nc

  
R. E. WAMBSGANSS  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

12

16

AVHCC-DST (12 Aug 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending:  
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 25 OCT 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: CPOF-OT,  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 1967 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery (HQAT) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning lack of aircraft, paragraph 6a, page 8; paragraph 6, page 9 and paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement. Comment: Requirement is valid and recognized by this headquarters. During the DA Standardization Team conference 1st week in September 1967, Aviation Sections were included as part of the Artillery Battalions MTOE. These MTOE were hand carried to DA for processing. If approved a considerable time lag is expected in fill of aviation sections due to lack of resources.

b. Reference item concerning basic load of maps, section II, part II, paragraph 2a, page 8: Nonconcur. CG CONARC unclassified message 59212, DTG 121840Z June 1967, changed the map issue procedure. All units deploying to RVN may draw planning and training maps in CONUS. All units irrespective of size will procure map basic loads upon arrival in-country. Map requisitions for basic load of maps for incoming units should be made by the sponsoring unit in accordance with USARV Regulation 220-10 and USARV Regulation 117-5.

c. Reference item concerning map issue, section II, part I, paragraph 2a, page 7. The allegation made concerning issue of 1:250,000 scale maps was investigated in detail by this headquarters on 15 September 1967. The USARV Long Binh map depot has no record of having received a map request from the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery during the months of June or July 1967. Neither the S2, II FFORCEV Artillery nor the S2, 54th Artillery Group were aware of any difficulty encountered by the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery, concerning issue of 1:250,000 scale maps. The proper method of consolidating subordinate unit map requirements at group level before submission to USARV map depots was discussed and explained to all elements concerned. Concensus is that the comment made by the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery concerns a problem of internal procedure of the 54th Artillery Group which had not been consolidating map requests for subordinate units. The 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery does now in fact have the 1:250,000 scale maps which it requires and no further difficulty should be encountered.

AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

d. Reference item concerning 1:250,000 map sheets, paragraph 2, 1st  
Indorsement: Concur. Medium scale 1:250,000 maps are not intended for opera-  
tional use by artillery units. Stock levels of large scale 1:50,000  
maps are sufficient in USARV map depots and these maps are intended for opera-  
tional use by artillery units to meet tactical, technical, and administrative  
requirements.

3. Unit will be notified of actions and comments by routine indorsement  
which returns this report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*J. E. L. Kennedy Jr*  
J. E. L. KENNEDY  
Cpt, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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14

GPOP-DT (12 Aug 67)

5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967  
from HQ, 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery (UIC: WALTOAA) (RCS  
CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 1 DEC 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

15



**UNCLASSIFIED**

Security Classification

**DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA . R & D**

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

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16

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